

strong effort it is making to promote this vital segment of Maryland's economy. From all the reports I have received, your organization already has achieved remarkable success in this field. The enthusiasm which I see at this dinner is evidence that even greater successes may be expected in the years ahead.

The Business Research Division of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company publishes an interesting and valuable booklet periodically called "Business in Maryland," summarizing the economic condition of our State. In its October, 1964 issue, there is a section on the seafood industry, and among other things, it has this to say:

"Unlike some industries, Maryland's seafood industry has been affected very little by technological advances. Processing, packing and preserving is done on a small scale and much of the work is by hand"

And then it goes on to say this: "The demand for seafood, which has not kept pace with population growth, could probably be expanded by further promotional activities."

These are facts of which you in the industry, and we in government, are aware. We know that the demand for seafood has not kept abreast of the rapid growth in population which the country is experiencing. We know that if the industry is to be developed to its full potential the demand for seafood products must be stimulated. That is the objective of this Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association. That, I hasten to add, is also an objective of your State government and its departments and agencies which function in this field.

The reports I have been receiving on the oyster catch this fall have been most heartening. Oyster biologists of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory are conducting their annual fall survey of oyster bars and say that the samplings they have been taking are most encouraging. In a news bulletin the Department issued a little more than a week ago, an older tonger was quoted as saying that he and his partner "tally around 18 bushels a day, but the young, stronger men are putting out from 30 to 40 bushels at \$4.50 each."

Fred Seiling, who is chief of natural resources management of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, was quoted in the bulletin as saying: "Now we see some excellent increases in the crop through our oyster rehabilitating program begun in 1960."

His reference, of course, was to the program which this Administra-